

## **Newspaper Access - HB265**

- Provide daily access for Montanans who cannot read print newspapers due to blindness, low vision or physical disabilities, to Daily, Weekly and Semi-weekly Montana newspapers via two separate but complimentary programs serving distinct user groups.
- Both services provide critical information about local Montana communities which is not available on commercial radio or television broadcasts, such as local news, announcements, society pages, obituaries/births/events, grocery ads, local politics, sports, etc. Both services are vital in providing the necessary opportunity for those who are unable to read print to enjoy full and equal participation in our communities and in local, state, and national affairs.

### ***Montana Radio Reading Service***

- A free service which provides live broadcasts (using 70+ volunteer readers) over closed-circuit radio.
- 9 daily and over 18 weekly and bi-weekly Montana newspapers, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays.
- Recorded for evening playback.
- Other periodicals including the Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, Prevention Magazine, AARP, Reader's Digest and many other publications through the In Touch Network, which is broadcast during late evening, early morning, weekend, and holiday hours on this 24- hour service.

### ***NFB Newsline***

- Provides on-demand computer-read newspapers via a toll-free telephone service, including the Billings Gazette, the Great Falls Tribune and the Missoulian.
- Hourly updates of Montana AP stories.
- Programmable local TV listings.
- National newspapers such as the Wall Street Journal.
- Magazines such as 3 AARP publications and the Economist.
- NFB Newsline can also be delivered to a patron's e-mail box.
- Web aggregation is planned.

EXHIBIT 2 HUH  
DATE 1-30-09  
# 265

Re: House Bill 265, funding for the Radio Reading Service.

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Kevin Denman, in the early 1980's I had the privilege of reading the daily Missoulian to the visually impaired thru the Radio Reading Service. This was a voluntary act on my part and I did enjoy it very much. During the time I read for them I came to realize just how important this service was to the visually impaired and others, who for whatever reason, did not get to keep up on the daily local and international news. On many occasions I was called and told how much this was appreciated and how they so much enjoyed being kept up on the current events. In these hard economic times it would be a sad happening for them to loose this wonderful service that they have come to enjoy so much. Please look very hard within yourselves and around you and do the right thing by passing HB-265, you will not only make many people happy, but you will be adding to the quality of life for these many wonderful people. Thank you so much for taking the time to look at this wonderful program.

Sincerely:



Kevin Denman  
Missoula, Mt.

AD